REMARKS

Claims 1-16 currently appear in this application. The Office Action of May 11, 2007, has been carefully studied. These claims define novel and unobvious subject matter under Sections 102 and 103 of 35 U.S.C., and therefore should be allowed. Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration, entry of the present amendment, and formal allowance of the claims.

Claim Objections

Claim 6 and dependent claim 7 are objected to as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim cannot depend from any other multiple dependent claims.

Claim 6 has been amended to depend only from claim 1.

Art Rejections

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Chrisey et al., US 5,688,642.

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the electrostatic layer is chemically modified to introduce a functional group capable of binding a nucleic acid molecule. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification

as filed at page 14, lines 15-18. Chrisey discloses that the electrostatic layer is an aminosilane coating on the substrate. In the present solid support, however, the electrostatic layer is chemically modified to introduce a functional group capable of bonding to a nucleic acid molecule. That is, in the presently claimed support, the electrostatic layer is not the same as the electrostatic layer in Chrisey, because in Chrisey the electrostatic layer is the source of the functional group. In the present application, the surface of the substrate with the electrostatic layer is chemically modified to introduce a functional group.

Claims 1, 3-5, 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Schwartz, US 6,911,535.

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Schwartz discloses a substrate with a surface having reactive moieties to form a covalent linkage with a second reactive component incorporated on the polymer part of a polymer/biomolecule couple. That is, Schwartz discloses a substrate for covalently bonding a biomolecule which is conjugated to a polymer. In Schwartz, it is the polymer that binds to the substrate, not the biomolecule. Schwartz modifies the polymer, as described at column 15, lines 42-60. In the presently claimed support, it is the surface of the

substrate that is chemically modified so that a nucleic acid molecule can bind covalently.

Double Patenting

Claims 1-5, 8 and 9 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-3 and 13-17 of copending application No. 10/182,434 in view of Schwartz.

This rejection is respectfully traversed. Submitted herewith is a terminal disclaimer which should be sufficient to overcome the double patenting rejection.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are no in condition for allowance, and favorable action thereon is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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